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## THE BATTLE-FIELD

BY EDWIN C. HICKMAN.

Not in the battle-field  
 Of carnage and of death,  
 Be it my lot to yield  
 My last expiring breath.  
 What though the scroll of fame,  
 On bright historic page,  
 Transmit the warrior's name  
 To last succeeding age;  
 What though triumphal arch,  
 A link in hist'ry's chain,  
 Attest the victor's march  
 With vaquished in his train;  
 Can noise of drum and fife,  
 Or thundering cannon's roar,  
 Reckless contempt of life,  
 And hands besmeared with gore;  
 Can curse of fallen foe,  
 Heard in his dying breath,  
 Dispel *our* gloom and wo,  
 Or blunt the sting of death?  
 Think not that death's cold flood  
 Can wash away the stain  
 Of man, thy brother's blood,  
 In horrid battle slain.  
 But, though I would convert  
 The *Sword* into the *Pen*,  
 And wield it, not to hurt,  
 But save my fellow men;  
 Yet, born of those who fought  
 Our liberties to gain,  
 The liberty of thought  
 I ever will maintain;  
 And, though I will not take  
 The life I cannot give,  
 A martyr at the stake  
 I'll die, or freeman live.  
 We should not fear to die,  
 If God or country call;  
 It is not *when*, but *why*,  
 And how, we are to fall.

April, 1847. Written on the report of some battles in the late Mexican War.

## HOME AFFAIRS.

PETITIONS TO CONGRESS. — We are glad to find our friends, in different and distant parts of the country, disposed to co-operate with us by forwarding petitions to Congress in favor of peaceful substitutes for War; and we hope they will continue these services. We rejoice especially to see such petitions coming, as they do, from the South and the extreme West. We give a single letter on this subject from Kentucky: —

Near Jones's Nursery, Kentucky, December 23, 1851.

Dear Sir, — In compliance with your Circular to the friends of peace published in the New York Observer, I have copied the Petition to Congress, and am procuring signatures to it. Some object; but nearly all to whom it is presented sign, although it is a subject with which the minds of the people generally are not familiarized. I wish they were; for it

seems to me that the policy of peace, if rightly understood, would commend itself to every friend of his country and of his race, especially to such as acknowledge allegiance to the Prince of Peace. How can such a Christian engage in war after having read *Dymond on War*? If that work could be generally disseminated through the length and breadth of our land, much good would result to the cause of peace.

You speak of the late Peace Congress in London. Should a "World's Fair" be held, as contemplated, in New York, during the coming year, would it not be advisable for the friends of peace to hold a Peace Congress in New York at the same time? As the bearing of our own government and people must exert an important, if not a controlling influence upon the peace question, every effort should be made to bring the subject fully before the minds of the American people. Though I am often made sick in viewing the past history of our race, as furnishing just grounds for the assertion of Burke, that "there is more havoc made in one year by men of men than has been made by all the lions, tigers, &c., upon their several species since the beginning of the world;" yet I am disposed to regard the efforts now being made by the friends of peace, as an augury of a better state of things in the future, as the dawning light of the great Sabbath of the world when it will no longer be asked, "Is it lawful to do good, or to do evil—to save life, or to kill?" Man is not always to be regarded as an object for the poisoned arrow, or the murderous cannon, but as a fellow-laborer in the great work of disseminating "on earth peace, good will among men."

No longer duped by artful men,  
The people taught their right,  
The *Sword* no longer, but the *Pen*,  
Will Freedom's battles fight,  
Till every dark abode of sin,  
Enlightened by its ray—  
The *PRESS*, at last, will usher in  
The bright millennial day;  
When, as a glorious brotherhood,  
Mankind will all unite  
To labor for the common good,  
And practise what is right.  
Yours, in the cause of peace,

EDWIN C. HICKMAN.

PEACE PUBLICATIONS. — We inserted in our last a Circular from our Executive Committee, proposing a special effort to raise funds for issuing anew our standard works, now nearly out of print, in quantities sufficient to establish depositories of them in different parts of our country, but especially at the West, where so little is known respecting our cause. We are happy in being able to say we have commenced this effort with encouraging prospects, and have, with the funds already contributed, begun to issue our series of tracts. Still the effort is only begun, and will require, for its full success, the liberal co-operation of all our friends. Of the liberality shown by some of them, we will give a few specimens of the right kind in our next number.

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